



JOHN 15:18-27

A GOD STRONG PERSON...

UNDERSTANDS
THEIR CALLING

PART 1: REFLECTION:

How would people around you know to “whom you belonged?”

Have you ever experienced persecution and hatred for being a Christian?

Do you know of someone who is experiencing persecution and could use some encouragement?

If we are not experiencing persecution from “the world,” what could that mean about how we are living? Just ask the Lord if there are some places that might need adjustment to make it more clear “to whom you belong.”

Listen and be encouraged: “Just remember, I have experienced first all that you have and might experience. I am able to empathize and support you in your suffering because I too was hated, persecuted, rejected. By my Spirit, I am always with you to comfort and encourage and empower to endure. I love you!”

PART 2: “BUMMER OF A BIRTH-MARK CONTINUED”

READ JOHN 15:22-25 (ALSO READ 16:1-4)

1. Jesus quotes Ps. 35:19 which says, “they hated him without reason,” meaning mainly “without a good reason.” However, in verses 22 and 24, what two reasons does Jesus give for why they hated Him?
2. Read John 3:19-21 again. How does that passage relate to our present passage?
3. 16:1-4 is very similar to 14:28-31. But what new elements does Jesus include now?
4. How again is this passage a song of encouragement in a minor key?

PART 2: REFLECTION

Why do you think it is that people (sometimes even us) want to give excuses for our sin instead of simply repenting?

Is there something in your life presently that you might need to repent of instead of making excuses?

Remember, His purpose in bringing sin into his light is to forgive you, cleanse you and return you to remaining in his love and joy. Maybe you can think of someone who could use this encouragement today.

PART 3: “MORE ENCOURAGEMENT ABOUT THE SPIRIT’S ROLE IN OUR LIVES”

READ JOHN 15:26-27

1. What additional role do we learn about what the Spirit is to do?

2. And what role is He reminding us that we have as well?

3. Read Acts 1:8 and be encouraged.

PART 3: REFLECTION

What kind of training have you received to prepare you to “testify” about Jesus to others? If this is an area you need help, talk with Mark Fee or Tim Carpenter about upcoming training.

What kinds of barriers prevent you from testifying? Ask the Lord for direction to get help to overcome these.